



City life: crowds of people, traffic congestion, asphalt and concrete, schools, government, culture, community . . . All of us know what it's like to live in a city. But did you know that God is in the process of building a city of his own right in the midst of our city? Although the story of the Bible starts in the garden (Gen. 1-2), it ends in a city (Rev. 21). And in between God invites us to join him in building his city right where we live. How do we do this? What does this look like? How do we deal with opposition? These are just some of the questions we are going to answer as we dig into the book of Nehemiah. I hope you are ready to let God use you to build his city in our city!

**Discussion Questions:** (Leaders please review each question and pick those that will be most beneficial for your group.)

1. Read Nehemiah 8. In this chapter we learn that revival starts when God's people decide to wholeheartedly receive and respond to God's word. Now before we dig into what this looks like, honestly look at your own life: Are you in need of revival? To help assess this read Revelation 3:14-18. What is your spiritual temperature toward the Lord, hot, cold, or lukewarm? Explain.

2. In Nehemiah 8:1-8, God's people wholeheartedly receive God's word: They eagerly desire it (vv.1-4), they respect the authority of it (vv.5-6), and they clearly understand it, (vv.7-8). Is this how you receive God's word when it is read, preached or taught? If not, what keeps you from receiving it in this way?

3. In Nehemiah 8:9-18, God's people wholeheartedly respond to the commands of God's word. In response to God's word being read and taught, they repent of their disobedience (vv.9-12), they study God's word together (vv.13-15), and they immediately obey the Lord's commands (vv.16-18). Is this how you respond to God's word? If not, what keeps you from responding to God's word this way?

4. John 1:1-14 tells us that Jesus Christ is the living Word. This means that how we receive and respond to God's word directly correlates with how we receive and respond to Jesus. We desperately need revival today. Revival starts when we decide to wholeheartedly receive and respond to God's word. What decision do you need to make today to wholeheartedly receive and respond to God's word?

5. Take time to pray together: that the Lord would bring revival to our church and make us a people that eagerly desire God's word, respect the authority of God's word, understand God's word, repent of our disobedience to God's word, study God's word together, and obey the commands of God's word.